



Luke 2: 16 The shepherds hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger.

¹⁷ When the shepherds saw him, they told them what the angel had said about the child.

¹⁸ All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said.

¹⁹ Mary remembered all these things and thought deeply about them.

Dear friends,

I feel honored and proud to serve First United Church, Bathurst as your servant in Christ. I would like to thank you all for your friendship and support that you have given to me.

As we approach Christmas, like Mary, I invite us to ponder and cherish the gift of Christmas in our hearts. And that gift is Jesus who came to reveal God's love to us, who died and rose for our salvation, and who founded his Church, a spiritual family, where He continues his mission of love through it. Treasure and reflect on the gift of Jesus and the faith you share in Him.

Jesus born of the Virgin Mary and laid in a manger instead of a palace. For this Advent's season, let us bind our hearts to the humility of the Bethlehem stable, Jesus showed us what are real values: humility, love, family, people.

What gift will we bring to him?

Let us bring to him our love and service. May Christ encourage us to love as He loves and serve as He serves.

My gift to you is my prayer that Christ will continue to show His love, care and peace upon you and your family, I wish each of you a blessed and joyous Christmas!

May the blessings of Christmas be with one and all!

Rev. Jean Herman

Highlights - Bathurst Pastoral Council November 27, 2018

In the absence of Sandra Boone, Brenda Parrott conducted the regular meeting which was held in the Eddy Room at 7p.m.

Also attending were Judy Losier, secretary; Rick Watling, Anne Brooks, Wayne Lord, Patricia Brown, Isabel MacLaggan and Rev. Jean Herman who led in the opening prayer.

Minutes of the October 14 congregational meeting included the announcement that Rev. Neal Palmer had applied to be the minister at First United Church. Considering that his background and quotes from his references were "quite impressive", the unanimous decision was made to extend a call to Rev. Palmer, who is originally from the Northern New Brunswick area. He will be taking up duties in mid-February.

The finance report to Council showed a General Fund loss of \$5,600 to the end of October. Total revenue was \$900 below budget but expenses were less mainly due to the retirement of the minister and custodian.

Local givings, always a concern, were \$1,200 short of what was budgeted and loose collection showed as \$1,000 shortfall.

On the brighter side, \$3,200 was realized through more profit through Ways and Means and sponsorship of dinners as well as \$2,500 from United Church Women received earlier in the year than usual. Dave Brewster was recognized for obtaining sponsors for these Ways and Means projects.

Reporting for the UCW, Anne Brooks said Al Cotton attended its November meeting when he gave interesting information on activities at Bathurst Volunteer Centre. He said the Centre has 25 family service counsellors and he gave suggestions for food donations such as pasta, cereal and canned meat, milk, fruit and vegetables.

Anne said the UCW will continue with the Poinsettia Fund this year and copies of the Let's Break Bread Together cookbook are available for sale.

Nominations Chair, Rick Watling, reported on initial contacts and progress re the filling of 2019 vacancies in various team positions.

The Christian Development Team report stated about 75 church members and friends attended the November 11 ringing of the Bells of Peace at First United. The event at sundown marked 100 years

since the end of World War I. Blake Mullin was recognized for the bell preparation and Beth Sullivan for preparing and providing hot chocolate and cookies afterwards.

White Gift Sunday service on December 9 will consist of tree trimming and collecting of items by the children, a puppet show and singing by the Sunday School choir.

Decorating the church for the Christmas season were Debrah and Rick Watling, Colette and Wayne Clowater, Beth Sullivan, Marie Oliver, Sara Ernst and Steve White, the new custodian who is originally from the Miramichi area.

Ways and Means Chair, Wayne Lord, said volunteer helpers are always needed for cleanup after the church suppers.

The Pastoral Care Team report by Patricia Brown revealed there are 69 congregants over the age of 80, of whom 47 are active and church attendees within the 80-89 category. There are 20 in the 90-99 age range.

The Community Outreach Sub-team report by Lynn Moffitt stated Ilona Schnarr and Helen Knowles have joined their group. Brenda Parrott said Catherine Eddy is also interested in helping. The Sub-team will be giving \$100 towards the breakfast program at the same four schools in the city.

The Property Management Team reported that Blair Good has the snow plowing contract for December to March inclusive at a price of \$2,310 plus HST. Snow removal in November and April will be paid by the job.

Judy Losier's report stated the Hospitality and Friendship Team will be helping with the Choir Concert on December 12th.

A thank-you note was received from the Lewises for kindness shown at the time of retirement. A framed picture of First United Church was given to them among other gestures of appreciation.

The next meeting of Council was set for, January 29 at 4p.m.

Isabel MacLaggan

*A single leaf
working alone
provides no shade.
~Chuck Page~*



4:00pm

7:00pm



Christmas Hymn Sing ***What Can I Give to the Holy Child?***

The annual Christmas Hymn Sing will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 12th, (storm date Dec. 13th), 7pm at First United. Come join with us as we celebrate the Christmas season with familiar carols as well as new selections you are sure to enjoy. The choir will be joined by Alysa Collins, Amanda Godin, Linda Knowles - MacPherson with The Treble Makers, as well as Take Note and the BHS Choir. Cost \$10 Adults \$5 Youth. Tickets are available from choir members and the church office 546-3532.

Check Us Out: www.firstunited-bathurst.ca. You can also follow us on Facebook. Here you will find upcoming events as well as cancellations if the need arises.



Poinsettia Fund: Once again this year we are hoping to have the beauty of our sanctuary enhanced with poinsettias for the Christmas season. Those wishing to contribute to the annual poinsettia fund may place an envelope in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Please mark clearly on the face of the envelope – Poinsettia Fund with your name, PAR or envelope number. List the names that you wish to have printed in the Christmas bulletin insert. Donations will also be received in the church office – deadline is December 17, 2018.

2019 Schedule for First United Church Events Hosted by Ways and Means Sub-Team

Thursday, January 31	Roast Pork Dinner
Sunday, February 24	Sunrise Breakfast
Thursday, March 28	Ham and Scallop
Sunday, April 28	Sunrise Breakfast
Thursday, September 26	Beef BBQ
Thursday, November 28	Turkey Supper

All Dates and Events are subject to change.

Church envelopes for the coming year are currently available. If you haven't had contribution envelopes in the past and wish to have them for 2019, please advise the church office. Another way of making contributions is through PAR.

PAR: Pre Authorized Remittance (PAR) is a convenient way to support the ongoing work of your church. Your monthly contributions are taken directly from your bank account or charged to a Major Credit Card. Currently we have 91 households using this method of support. Signing up for PAR takes only a few minutes and can be done for you at the church office. All that is required is a void cheque or your credit card number.

Annual Christmas Benevolence Program: For those interested in supporting this benevolence program, donation envelopes are available on the Christmas tree located at the entrance to the sanctuary. Any personal cheque may be made payable to First United Church. Donations to this fund will be used to support the volunteer center as well as those people in our congregation who find it difficult, financially, throughout the year.

Newsletters: Our number of Newsletters sent via email continues to grow. We have 93 households currently receiving their newsletters via email. Thank you to all you have signed up. Please consider adding your name to the list. Send your request to firstadmin@nb.aibn.com. Special envelopes for Christmas contributions can be found in the Narthex. Approximately 350 members of our church family receive three letters yearly at the cost of around \$1.00/letter.

*May Peace
be your gift at Christmas
and your blessing
all year through!*
~Author Unknown~



Christmas Candy Cane Cookies Recipe

- 1 cup real butter
 - 1 cup granulated sugar
 - 1/4 cup powdered sugar
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 - 1 teaspoon peppermint extract
 - 1 egg
 - 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
 - 1 teaspoon baking powder
 - 1/2 teaspoon salt
 - Red food coloring gel
 - 2 tablespoons finely crushed peppermint candies
 - 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
1. In a large bowl, beat together butter, both sugars, both extracts, and egg on low, just until combined. Stir in flour, baking powder, and salt.
 2. Divide dough in half, making sure you have 2 equal portions. Add red food coloring gel to half of the dough until the desired color is reached. Wrap each portion of dough in plastic wrap and refrigerated for 3-4 hours.
 3. In a small bowl, combine peppermint candy and 2 tablespoons sugar. Set aside.
 4. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
 5. To make a candy cane cookie, take 1 level teaspoon of each dough. Roll each teaspoon into a 5" rope (use a ruler, if necessary). Place one red and one white rope next to each other and begin twisting the two colors together, while pressing ends together so that they won't unravel.
 6. Place on an ungreased baking sheet, curving the top to one side to form the look of a candy cane. Bake for 8-10 minutes or until lightly browned. Immediately sprinkle cookies with the sugar/peppermint mixture.
 7. Move cookies to a wire rack to finish cooling.



Hot Cocoa Prayer

1. Measure two tablespoons of cocoa powder. Taste it (it's bitter). Pray for some of the things that are bitter in your life and a little hard to take on their own.
2. Measure and add 1–2 tablespoons of sugar or sweetener. Taste it (it's sweet). Offer a prayer of thanks for all the things that are sweet in your life and are perhaps best in small doses.
3. Add a pinch of salt. Taste it (it's salty). Offer a prayer for moments of grace and clarity, experiences that bring out the flavour of life.
4. Warm some milk (or milk beverage) while reflecting on when you have experienced the Holy in the past day or week. What has warmed your heart?
5. Mix warmed milk beverage with hot chocolate mixture. Taste it (it's yummy). Give thanks to God and enjoy.

*This is the
message of Christmas:
We are never alone.
~Taylor Caldwell~*